23.3.2002

With a view to further enhance food security and liquidate the stocks of foodgrains, the Government has approved the following proposals:

(i) To fix the scale of issue for APL, BPL and Antyodaya households @ 35 kg. per household per month and increase allocations to States/UTs accordingly.

(ii) To reduce the APL CIPs by Rs. 100 per qunintal in respect of rice and wheat for a period of three months.

(iii) To fix the scale of issue for all welfare institutions and hostels uniformly @ 15 kg. per head per month and make an additional allocation equal to 5% of BPL allocation of States/UTs at BPL CIP on this account.

(iv) To make open market sales of 50 lakh MTs of wheat and 10 lakh MTs of rice at prices to be determined by the existing High Level Committee of FCI.

(v) To increase export of wheat and rice, including lustre lost wheat, and provide WTO compatible subsidies for exports of wheat, wheat products and rice.

(vi) To fix no quantitative restrictions on the exports of rice, wheat and wheat products, subject to the condition that the stocks in the Central Pool will not be lower than the buffer stock of 243 lakh MTs (100 lakh MTs of rice and 143 lakh MTs of wheat) at any point of time.

(vii) To enter into counter trade and/or extend commodity assistance in the form of foodgrains to other countries on terms to be decided on a case-to-case basis.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Agro Export Zones

5246. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Agro Export Zones set up in different parts of the country, State-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal before Government for setting up of more Agro Export Zones; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA) (a) to (c) The Central Government has so far sanctioned 24 Agri Export Zones which are being set up in various states. Agricultural and Processed food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), an organization under Department of Commerce (Ministry of Commerce and Industry) has so far signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with State Government of West Bengal, Karnataka, Uttranchal, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tripura, Madhya Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Tamil Nadu and Bihar for 18 Agri Export Zones.

New Agro and Rural Industries Policy

5247. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to formulate a new Agro and Rural Industries policy considering the recent changes in economic liberalisation and globalisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) to (c) In order to meet the challenges in the context of economic liberalisation and globalisation, the Government of India has already announced a special package on 14.05.2001 for strengthening the KVI sector including agro and rural industries. The Khadi package has provision for renovation and modernization of sales outlets, insurance cover for Khadi artisans, option between rebate and Market Development Assistance (MDA), creation of packaging and design facilities, measures to promote marketing, brand building and cluster development, technology upgradation, quality control, marketing through publicity and advertisement etc. The operational details of the Khadi Package have been worked out for effective implementation and monitoring. The additional backward and forward linkages whenever required will be further strengthened as a policy